

Letters

# Cul-de-sac is hardly a stigma

Dear Editor:

Shame on the Southeast Valley mayors for making disparaging comments about the Ahwatukee Foothills area when they don't even live here. I am especially concerned when they make a statement like, "Ahwatukee residents are likely to benefit most from the freeway, through shorter commute times and increased property values as the subdivision is freed from its stigma as the world's largest cul-de-sac."

What have the mayors been smoking? — our property values have improved substantially without the freeway and I would say our median home value appreciation in this area is substantially ahead of the Southeast Valley cities of Chandler, Gilbert and Mesa.

What the mayors call a "stigma" I would say is the core reason we live here — it is called "quality of life." Now I could place some labels on the cities they represent but my professional standards say, "Don't lower yourself to that level."

I would like the mayors to show me empirical data that if you are within line-of-sight of a 10-lane freeway that it adds value to the appreciation of a private residence verses not having the freeway built in the first place.

If it turns out that the SMCAT/ADOT and FHWA select the alignment of the west portion of the 202 to be at the 101 — for anyone who lives in the Ahwatukee Foothills area it will mean additional mileage for a trip to Central and I-10, versus the existing Pecos and I-10.

What we know for facts are the following data points: The South Mountain Loop 202 will dramatically increase the number of vehicles traveling around South Mountain, pollution rates will increase substantially and so will the noise levels and there is a strong probability that the crime rate will also increase. Now from my perspective these factors do not add value to the Ahwatukee Foothills area.

Now the mayors mention isolated cases of commutation times—picking off the wall locations like someone in the Ahwatukee Foothills area traveling to Metrocenter Mall or from the Williams Gateway



Airport to Goodyear Airport. Trust me that line of logic doesn't sell. We don't need to spend billions of dollars just for the few times that someone is going to see Aunt Tillie in Sun City, or making a trip to see Mickey in Disneyland.

We have limited resources and we need to spend them where they will benefit the majority of the citizens that live here in the Valley of the Sun.

Jim Jochim